

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 180856 TOSEC 190001

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY P:PCHABIB:BDF

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S - MR. PETER S. BRIDGES

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O 212255Z JUL 76 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 180856 TOSEC 190001

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AEMR, US, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION

1. YOU SHOULD CONVEY TO PRINCE FAHD IMMEDIATELY THE  
FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME.

2. QUOTE: AS YOU HAVE BEEN INFORMED, WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING  
TO EVACUATE AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM BEIRUT. I APPRECIATE THE  
HELP WHICH YOU HAVE PROVIDED IN THIS REGARD.

AT NOON ON JULY 21 OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT INFORMED THE PLO  
REPRESENTATIVE THAT WE WISHED TO PROCEED TO RESCHEDULE THE  
ROAD CONVOY WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED AND ASKED  
FOR CONFIRMATION THAT THE CONVOY COULD TRAVEL TO DAMASCUS  
ON JULY 24. LATER THAT DAY THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE REPLIED  
THAT SATURDAY WAS NOT A GOOD DAY BECAUSE OF THE GENERALLY  
UNSTABLE SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT AND ELSEWHERE. IN  
DISCUSSING THE PARTICULARS OF THE SECURITY SITUATION, THE  
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PLO REPRESENTATIVE CITED SUCH MATTERS AS PRESIDENT ASSAD'S

RECENT SPEECH WHICH HE CALLED UNHELPFUL, THE FAILURE OF THE TRUCE AT TEL ZATAAR AND THE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THE PLO DELEGATION WHICH HAS DEPARTED FOR DAMASCUS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SYRIANS.

WHAT THIS DOES IS CREATE A SITUATION IN WHICH AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE BEING HELD HOSTAGE TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN LEBANON. AS YOU WILL RECOGNIZE, THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO US AND WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. WE ARE PREPARED TO EVACUATE OUR CITIZENS BY WHATEVER MEANS AVAILABLE, EITHER BY LAND OR SEA AS WE DID THE LAST TIME.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GETTING IN TOUCH URGENTLY WITH THE PLO LEADERSHIP TO URGE THEM IN THE STRONGEST TERMS TO COOPERATE IN THE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM BEIRUT.

I APPRECIATE ALL YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE AND ASK THIS ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL INTERESTS WHICH WE SHARE.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS. END QUOTE. ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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